2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

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them from their fellow tribesmen, except their superior armament and well filled cartridge belts.

The Tribal Guards are the first line of offence and defence of the Ruler and in only two of the States is there any more elaborate organisation. Lahej has a private army which was, when I was in Aden, a sorry collection of ragamuffins, some 200 strong, whose pipe Band was much in demand on St. Andrew's night at the Union Club, that centre of European civilisation and culture in the Colony; otherwise, I am afraid this force had but little merit. The Quaiti Sultan has, at Mukalla, a Regular Army and the headquarters of his Armed Constabulary which, thanks very largely to the inspiration of Mr. W. H. Ingrams, C.M.G., O.B.E., who as Resident Adviser did so much for that country, were reasonably efficient. In appearance there is little to choose between the Regular Army and the Armed Constabulary, except that the former was considerably darker in hue, having been recruited largely from the Sultan's ex-slaves.

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Some years before an interesting conversation had taken place between the Quaiti Sultan and a Political Officer in Mukalla, at a time when Aden was threatened with a visit from one of the more rabid anti-slavery enthusiasts.

"Don't you think it would be a good idea, your Highness, if you were to release your slaves?" inquired the Political Officer, referring to the Palace slaves who numbered some 300 men and youths without taking into account their women folk. The Political Officer had led up to this question with a dissertation on the rights of man and world public opinion, and he had produced all the usual anti-slavery arguments with considerable eloquence, and he awaited the answer to his question with some anxiety. The Authorities in Aden, threatened by the advent of the enthusiast, were seriously worried about the slaves of Mukalla. Although, in fact, they were a lot of lazy well-fed good-for-nothings, there was no doubt that in theory they were slaves, and enthusiasts can never see out of both eyes at the same time.

"It is a very good idea," replied His Highness, "but I can release them only on one condition."

Aden

• 567 "What is the condition?" asked the Political Officer with considerable misgiving.

"You must agree to send troops here when I free them," answered the Sultan.

"What for?" asked the astonished Political Officer.

"To protect me, of course," said the Sultan.

"I am afraid I do not understand, your Highness," said the Political Officer much perplexed.

"I am surprised. Surely it's obvious? I feed and house and clothe my so-called slaves, and of course, their families. I give them presents on religious festivals and when they marry. I have not enough work for them to do and in consequence they have an easy life. Now, if I say to them that they are free and I don't propose to keep them any longer and that they must go away and earn their own living, I am afraid they won't be very pleased. They are simple people, you know, and prefer actual ease and comfort with only technical restraint to freedom and hard work, and as they are stronger than my army I must be certain of your help before I make them free," was the answer of the Sultan.

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702 As usual with us a compromise was achieved and the slaves became the troops.

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625 The backing for the Tribal Guards in the Western Protectorate comes from a body of men called the Government Guards, a fine lot who were originally raised and trained by Lord Belhaven and Stenton, when as Master of Belhaven he was a Political Officer working in the Protectorate. Indeed, it was his idea which brought them into being and the Protectorate should be extremely grateful to him for his happy thought and his hard work in the early formative months. They are under the general direction of the British Agent, who is the senior Political official responsible to the Governor for the Western half of the Protectorate, and are a Government force paid for from the annual subvention from Her Majesty's
[714] Government. Well armed and well trained with distinctive black head-dresses, they play many dangerous and difficult parts. Led by their British and Arab officers they are always ready to support the Tribal Guards when local difficulties